

USSN: 10/057,852
Atty. Docket No.: 2002B012
Amtd. dated January 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 14, 2003

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (previously amended): A coextruded facestock for forming conformable pressure sensitive labels suitable for automated dispensing, comprising:

a core layer including approximately 40-80% of polypropylene and approximately 20-60% of an ethylene-containing polyolefin, said core layer having a thickness of at least about 2.15 mils;

first and second polyolefinic skin layers adhered to opposing sides of said core layer, each of said skin layer having a thickness of less than approximately 0.1 mils; and

wherein said coextruded core and skin layers are biaxially oriented such that the degree of orientation in the transverse direction exceeds the degree of orientation in the machine direction to provide said facestock, the degree of orientation in said transverse direction ranging from about 7 to about 10 and the degree of orientation in said machine direction ranging from about 3.5 to about 6 whereby said facestock simultaneously exhibits the squeezability, dispensability and die-cutability characteristics necessary for automated conformable label applications.

Claim 2 (original): The facestock according to Claim 1, wherein said core layer includes approximately 45 to 60% of said polypropylene and approximately 40 to 55% of said ethylene-containing polyolefin.

Claim 3 (original): The facestock according to Claim 2, wherein said ethylene-containing polyolefin provides said core layer with a total ethylene content of approximately 2%-4%.

Claim 4 (original): The facestock according to Claim 3, wherein said ethylene-containing polyolefin is selected from the group consisting of random propylene-ethylene copolymers and propylene-ethylene-butylene terpolymers.

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Claim 5 (original): The facestock according to Claim 1, wherein each of said skin layers has a thickness of from about 0.03 mils to about 0.07 mils.

Claim 6 (original): The facestock according to Claim 5, wherein said core layer has a thickness of from about 2.3 mils to about 2.4 mils.

Claim 7 (original): The facestock according to Claim 6, wherein each of said skin layers is formed of a polymer-ethylene copolymer and includes from about 500 ppm to about 2500 ppm of an antiblock agent, and wherein the degree of orientation in said transverse direction is approximately 8 and the degree of orientation in said machine direction is approximately 4.5.

Claims 8-10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (previously amended): A labelstock for forming conformable pressure sensitive labels, comprising:

- a) a facestock having sufficient stiffness to allow automated dispensing of labels formed therefrom, said facestock comprising:
 - a core layer including approximately 40-80% of polypropylene and approximately 20-60% of an ethylene-containing polyolefin;
 - first and second polyolefinic skin layers adhered to opposing sides of said core layer;
 - wherein said coextruded core and skin layers are biaxially oriented such that the degree of orientation in the transverse direction exceeds the degree of orientation in the machine direction to provide said facestock, the degree of orientation in said transverse direction ranging from about 7 to about 10 and the degree of orientation in said machine direction ranging from about 3.5 to about 6 whereby said facestock simultaneously exhibits the squeezability, dispensability and die-cutability characteristics necessary for automated conformable label applications; and
 - wherein said core layer is at least about 20 times the thickness of one of said skin layers;
- b) a pressure-sensitive adhesive applied to the outer surface of said second skin layer;

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c) a release liner covering said pressure-sensitive adhesive and adapted for removal therefrom.

Claim 12 (original): The labelstock according to Claim 11, wherein said core layer includes approximately 45 to 60% of said polypropylene and approximately 40 to 55% of said ethylene-containing polyolefin.

Claim 13 (original): The labelstock according to Claim 12, wherein said ethylene-containing polyolefin provides said core layer with a total ethylene content of approximately 2%-4%.

Claim 14 (original): The labelstock according to Claim 13, wherein said ethylene-containing polyolefin is selected from the group consisting of random propylene-ethylene copolymers and propylene-ethylene-butylene terpolymers.

Claim 15 (original): The labelstock according to Claim 11, wherein each of said skin layers has a thickness of less than approximately 0.1 mils, and wherein said core layer has a thickness of at least about 2.15 mils.

Claim 16 (original): The labelstock according to Claim 15, wherein each of said skin layers has a thickness of from about 0.03 mils to about 0.07 mils and said core layer has a thickness of from about 2.3 mils to about 2.4 mils, and wherein the degree of orientation in said transverse direction is approximately 8 and the degree of orientation in said machine direction is approximately 4.5.

Claim 17 (original): The labelstock according to Claim 16, wherein each of said skin layers is formed of a propylene-ethylene copolymer and includes from about 500 ppm to about 2500 ppm of an antiblock agent.

Claims 18-20 (cancelled)

Claim 21 (new): A coextruded facestock for forming conformable pressure sensitive labels suitable for automated dispensing, comprising:

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a core layer including approximately 40-80% of polypropylene and approximately 20-60% of an ethylene-containing polyolefin, said core layer having a thickness of at least about 2.15 mils;

first and second polyolefinic skin layers having an inner and an outer surface wherein the inner surface of each skin layer is adhered to opposing side of said core layer, each of said skin layer having a thickness of less than approximately 0.1 mils;

an acrylic-based coating adhered to the outer surface of the first skin layer; and
wherein said coextruded core and skin layers are biaxially oriented such that the degree of orientation in the transverse direction exceeds the degree of orientation in the machine direction to provide said facestock, the degree of orientation in said transverse direction ranging from about 7 to about 10 and the degree of orientation in said machine direction ranging from about 3.5 to about 6 whereby said facestock simultaneously exhibits the squeezability, dispensability and die-cutability characteristics necessary for automated conformable label applications.

Claim 22 (new): The facestock according to claim 21, wherein said coating includes a matting agent.

Claim 23 (new): The facestock according to claim 21, further comprising a surface-enhancing coating adhered to the outer surface of the second skin layer.

Claim 24 (new): A labelstock for forming conformable pressure sensitive labels, comprising:

a) a facestock having sufficient stiffness to allow automated dispensing of labels formed therefrom, said facestock comprising:

a core layer including approximately 40-80% of polypropylene and approximately 20-60% of an ethylene-containing polyolefin;

first and second polyolefinic skin layers having an inner and an outer surface wherein the inner surface of each skin layer is adhered to opposing side of said core layer;

wherein said coextruded core and skin layers are biaxially oriented such that the degree of orientation in the transverse direction exceeds the degree of orientation in the

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machine direction to provide said facestock, the degree of orientation in said transverse direction ranging from about 7 to about 10 and the degree of orientation in said machine direction ranging from about 3.5 to about 6 whereby said facestock simultaneously exhibits the squeezability, dispensability and die-cutting characteristics necessary for automated conformable label applications; and

wherein said core layer is at least about 20 times the thickness of one of said skin layers;

- b) an acrylic-based coating adhered to the outer surface of the first skin layer;
- c) a pressure-sensitive adhesive applied to the outer surface of said second skin layer;
and
- d) a release liner covering said pressure-sensitive adhesive and adapted for removal therefrom.

Claim 25 (new): The labelstock according to claim 24, wherein said coating includes a matting agent.

Claim 26 (new): The labelstock according to claim 24, further comprising a surface-enhancing coating adhered to the outer surface of the second skin layer for enhancing adhesion of said adhesive thereto.